

Susan M. McHale

Susan M. McHale is professor of human development at Pennsylvania State University. Her research focuses on children's and adolescents' family relationships, roles and everyday activities; she is especially interested in sibling relationship dynamics and in family conditions and experiences that foster similarities and differences in sisters' and brothers' well-being and development. Together with Ann C. Crouter, she has studied these issues in the context of the Penn State Family Relationships Project, a longitudinal study of families that has been funded by the NICHD since 1995. Most recently her research has extended to examination of the cultural contexts of family dynamics and youth development. In two new studies, also funded by the NICHD, she and Crouter are working with Penn State colleagues, Drs. Linda M. Burton and Dena P. Swanson, and with Dr. Kimberly A. Updegraff at Arizona State University, to study siblings' experiences and family dynamics in samples of African American and Mexican American families. McHale's work is published in a variety of journals, including *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Social Development* and *Journal of Marriage and the Family* as well as in edited volumes.